

January 24, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530
Fax: 202-616-9937

Dear Ms. Hesse:

As a young business executive, I am relieved that the federal government and Microsoft, which have been engaged in a protracted antitrust lawsuit, have arrived at a settlement arrangement that is amicable to both sides. Settling this case as soon as possible is important to the technology industry, as well as many other important segments of the economy.

In the business world, companies look at industry leaders for innovation, and they often try to emulate the corporate giants' successful business strategies. This partially explains why the tech sector of the economy has been in a tailspin for an extended period of time. When the antitrust suit is finally ended once and for all, a dark cloud will be lifted from the entire industry.

The American economy, and to some extent, the world economy has never been more interconnected. Each change within one economical sector creates a ripple throughout the rest of the economy. A major shift in one sector results in a sea change across the board of leading economic indicators.

I work in the mortgage banking industry, a business that is highly sensitive to the state of the national economy. While ending the Microsoft litigation will not alone create record revenues for our industry, I feel certain that it would boost consumer confidence, and encourage investments in many types of business enterprises.

Finally, I am excited about the future of technological innovation in the workplace. Microsoft has led the way in this regard, and finalizing the settlement will help the company refocus on developing new and exciting products. That means a more productive workplace in the future.

I request that Judge Kollar Kotelly approves the settlement.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Stewart
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